

Message Text

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21

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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

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COMSIXTHFLT

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCEUR

AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0482

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MIL, AG

SUBJ: MILITARY COOPERATION WITH ALGERIA

1. DURING COURTESY CALL ON SECRETARY GENERAL NATIONAL DEFENSE, ABDELHAMID LATRECHE (HIGHEST OFFICIAL IN MINISTRY ON WHOM AMBASSADORS CALL, MINISTER OF DEFENSE BEING PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE), I RAISED WITH HIM QUESTION RELATIONS BETWEEN ALGERIAN AND US MILITARY, NOTING THAT WE WOULD EVENTUALLY WANT TO BRING IN MILITARY ATTACHE AND THAT WHILE IN WASHINGTON I HAD BEEN ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY ARRANGING VISITS BY VESSELS OF SIXTH FLEET. LATRECHE SAID MILITARY AFFAIRS DIFFERENT FROM ECONOMIC. WHILE WE COOPERATING EFFECTIVELY IN LATTER FIELD AND HAD BEEN FOR SOME TIME, THERE HAD BEEN VERY LITTLE MILITARY CONTACT BETWEEN US. FOR ONE THING, ALGERIANS HAD LACKED MILITARY CADRE TO SPARE SOMEONE TO BE ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON, AND YEARS BETWEEN 1962 AND 1967, WHEN RELATIONS BROKEN, HAD BEEN FORMATIVE PERIOD DURING WHICH ALGERIANS HAD NOT HAD TIME DEVELOP CONTACTS WITH US. ALGERIANS WOULD HAVE TO GET ACCUSTOMED

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TO IDEA OF RESTORED RELATIONS FIRST, AND WOULD MOVE VERY

SLOWLY ON MILITARY QUESTIONS IN ANY EVENT.

2. I SAID WE PROPOSING NOTHING AT PRESENT BUT I HAD MERELY WANTED TO LET HIM KNOW THAT IF ALGERIANS WERE INTERESTED IN IMPROVING MILITARY CONTACTS, OR THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING WE COULD DO FOR THEM IN MILITARY FIELD, THERE WAS RECEPTIVE SPIRIT ON OUR SIDE.

3. COMMENT: LATRECHE UNCOMFORTABLE ABOUT DISCUSSING SUBJECT (AS OPPOSED COMMANDER OF GENDARMERIE WHO ACTS AS THOUGH DOOR IS WIDE OPEN FOR MILITARY COOPERATION AS FAR AS HE CONCERNED). HE OBVIOUSLY UNINSTRUCTED AND UNPREPARED FOR MY REMARKS. THIS ALL WE CAN DO FOR NOW ON SHIP VISIT ISSUE, BUT WILL RAISE IT AGAIN WHEN AND IF APPROPRIATE OCCASION PRESENTS ITSELF.
PARKER

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NNN

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